1. (Cancelled)

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) A method of improving the mobility of a ladder, comprising the steps of:

providing a ladder having two parallel ladder rails, wherein each of said ladder rails has a bottom end that embodies a first ~~coefficient of friction when resting upon the ground~~ resistance to sliding ; and

attaching slide pads to said bottom end of each of said ladder rails ~~so that said slide pads are interposed between said ladder rails and the ground~~, wherein said slide pads are affixed to said ladder rails and remain attached to said ladder rails when the ladder rails are lifted ~~from the ground~~, and wherein each of said slide pads have a hard bottom surface that embodies a second ~~coefficient of friction , when in contact with the ground~~ resistance to sliding, that is less than said

first ~~coefficient of friction~~ resistance to sliding of said ladder rails

13. (Original)The method according to Claim 12, wherein said step of attaching slide pads to said bottom end of each of said ladder rails includes advancing said bottom end of each ladder rail into a receptacle structure on each of said slide pads that engages said ladder rails.

14. (Original) The method according to Claim 12, wherein said step of attaching slide pads to said bottom end of each of said ladder rails includes advancing said bottom end of each ladder rail between fingers mounted on each of said slide pads, wherein the fingers engage said ladder rails.

15.(Original) The method according to Claim 12, wherein said bottom surfaces of said slide pads have at least one curved edge.

~~17~~ 16.(Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 12, whereon said ladder is a stepladder having two ladder rails and two support rails, wherein said slide pads are attached solely to said ladder rails.

~~19~~ 17.(Currently Amended) A stepladder assembly, comprising:

a stepladder having two ladder rails and two support rails, wherein said ladder rails and said support rails each have bottom ends ~~that contact the ground when~~ upon which said stepladder ~~is~~ rests when erected, and wherein said bottom ends of said ladder rails present a first

resistance to sliding when said stepladder is erected;

slide pads coupled to said bottom ends of said ladder rails so that said slide pads are ~~interposed between~~ below said bottom ends of said ladder rails ~~and the ground~~ when said stepladder is erected, said slide pads having a hard surface that ~~contacts the ground and~~ presents a ~~lower coefficient of friction against the ground than said support rails~~ second resistance to sliding that is less than said first resistance to sliding of said ladder rails.

~~20~~ 18. (Currently Amended) The assembly according to Claim ~~19~~ 20, wherein said slide pads are selectively detachable and reattachable to said ladder rails.

19.(New) An assembly comprising:

a ladder having at least two ladder rails that support the ladder in a standing position;

slide pads attached to at least some of said ladder rails so that said slide pads are disposed under said at least some of said ladder rails when said ladder is in said standing position;

wherein each of said slide pads has presents less resistance to sliding than does any of said ladder rails when said ladder is in said standing position.

20. (New) The assembly according to Claim 19, wherein each of said slide pads has a base with a receptacle structure extending upwardly from said base, wherein said receptacle structure receives and engages one of said ladder rails of said ladder.

21. (New) The assembly according to Claim 20, wherein said receptacle structure includes a

vertical support having flexible arms that extend from said vertical support.

22.(New) The assembly according to Claim 21, further including a strap attached to said flexible arms for biasing said flexible arms toward each other.

23.(New) The assembly according to Claim 20, wherein said receptacle structure includes a tubular elastic band that is adapted to surround a portion of one of said ladder rails, thereby enabling said receptacle structure to engage a ladder rail.

24.(New) The assembly according to Claim 23, wherein a peripheral ridge extends upwardly from said slide pad base and said tubular elastic band extends upwardly from said peripheral ridge.

25.(New) The assembly according to Claim 20, wherein said receptacle structure includes fingers that extend upwardly from said slide pad base and engage one of said ladder rails that is positioned between said fingers.

26.(New) The assembly according to Claim 20, further including at least one strap for biasing said fingers toward each other.

27.(New) The assembly according to Claim 26, further including sloped locking heads on said fingers.

28.(New) The assembly according to Claim 20, wherein said base of said slide pad has at least one curved edge.

29.(New) The device according to Claim 20, whereon said base of said slide pad is metal.